



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

**Department of Child Services
Child Abuse and Neglect
Annual Report of Child Fatalities
State Fiscal Year 2006
(July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006)**

*Protecting our children,
families and future*

**Child Abuse and Neglect
Annual Report
of
Child Fatalities**

2006



State of Indiana

Department of Child Services

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Preface

Every year, the State of Indiana, through the Department of Child Services (DCS), reviews identified allegations of child fatalities that occurred because of abuse and/or neglect. If the circumstances surrounding the child's death are sudden, unexpected or unexplained, DCS will assess these deaths to ensure abuse or neglect has not occurred. Abuse is defined in IC 31-34-1-2 as an act in which a child's physical or mental health is seriously endangered due to injury by the act or omission of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian. Neglect is defined in IC 31-34-1-1 as an act in which a child's physical or mental condition is seriously impaired or seriously endangered as a result of the inability, refusal, or neglect of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, or supervision. Indiana law mandates that anyone who suspects child abuse and/or neglect must make a report to DCS. (IC 31-33-5-1)

A team of professionals from the county in which the child lived reviews each assessed fatality alleged to be the result of abuse and/or neglect. The local team reviews the evidence and determines if the death was due to negligence or physical harm caused by a parent, guardian or custodian. After the local team makes its determination, the State Fatality Review Team provides a supplementary review of each case and makes recommendations to the local DCS office regarding the findings of the local team. The reports are finalized at the State Office of the Department of Child Services and data is collected from the findings of the assessment.

The purpose of this report is to provide demographic information resulting from child deaths that occurred as a result of substantiated abuse and/or neglect. It is also the intent of this report to supplement these demographics with a description of the maltreatment that led to the child's death. In turn, this information can begin to yield prevention strategies that Indiana as a community can implement to reduce the number of child deaths.

The report is shared internally with staff and externally with stakeholders to inform the reader of the dangers children are too often placed in that at times result in child fatalities.

The child fatalities within this report occurred during the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2006: July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. The report is abridged in the Executive Summary and highlights changes or trends from the previous year. This Summary also includes a synopsis of data of all child abuse and/or neglect fatalities from SFY 2006, including demographic information pertaining to the

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victims, perpetrators and households of these child deaths. Through analysis of this year's report, the Department is able to identify the risk factors and home life circumstances that are common elements relating to abuse and/or neglect. In particular, this report reveals that unstable non-family relationships often pose a significant risk to children. In addition, the high number of shaken baby and blunt force trauma deaths emphasizes the vital importance of an adults' ability to recognize and reduce stress factors that lead to frustration with a child.

This information aids in the development of prevention and educational programs specific for the community affected, and the State of Indiana as a whole. The data is also used to evaluate, review, and modify policy, practice and procedure where warranted. DCS recognizes the value of community protection and encourages all members of the public to become partners in preventing child deaths. In order to protect children from abuse and neglect, DCS must be proactive in the community. Neighborhoods and all persons having direct contact with any child must use every opportunity to be educated on the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect, including the associated risk factors. The data assembled in this report is collected from multiple sources, including DCS records, death certificates, coroners' reports, and law enforcement records. Information from child fatality assessments is divided by DCS into categories of types of maltreatment. Often these children may have suffered multiple injuries or are victims of both abuse and neglect. In every case, DCS has attempted to accurately depict the decisive factor of maltreatment that resulted in the child's death. In addition, demographic information is collected on the surviving siblings and family members.

As of March 24, 2006, the Department of Child Services enacted policy per new legislative changes clarifying the definition of custodian. Per IC 31-9-2-31, "custodian" was amended to exclude unlicensed babysitters or unlicensed daycare providers. These changes affect the reporting period from March 24 – June 30, 2006 of the State Fiscal Year 2006.

This report contains information on fifty three (53) child fatalities at the hands of parent, guardian, or custodian as defined by Indiana Code based on the time of the report.





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Executive Summary

There were 53 abuse and neglect fatalities substantiated in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2006. Of these 53 fatalities, 30 (56.6%) were due to abuse and 23 (43.4%) were due to neglect. While this reflects a decrease in the total number of fatalities from SFY 2005, the fatalities attributed to abuse increased and those attributed to neglect decreased. Child fatalities from abuse increased by 6 from 24 in SFY 2005 to 30 in SFY 2006. Conversely, child fatalities from neglect decreased by 7 from 30 in SFY 2005 to 23 in SFY 2006.

Overall, the single highest cause of all substantiated fatalities by number was attributed to physical abuse blunt force injury to the head accounting for 15 (28.3%) of the total 53. Drowning deaths and deaths from shaken baby syndrome comprised the second leading causes of death each with 6 (11.3%) fatalities. There were 5 (9.4%) deaths each attributed to vehicular, positional asphyxiation, and asphyxiation/suffocation/strangulation. Following were four (7.6%) gun related deaths and 3 (5.7%) medical neglect deaths consisting of malnutrition, pneumonia and sepsis. There was 1 (1.9%) child death each for poisoning, stab wounds, drowning/vehicular accident, and drug-related conditions of child accounting for the remaining 4 fatalities.

While the total number of child fatalities (53) reflect a decrease there were also changes in the number of deaths occurring as a result of abuse and neglect as well as the primary causes of death. Increases included shaken baby syndrome deaths by 3 (6 in SFY 2006 and 3 in SFY 2005), physical abuse blunt force trauma to the head deaths by 2 (15 in SFY 2006 and 13 in SFY 2005), gun related deaths by 2 (4 in SFY 2006 and 2 in SFY 2005), vehicular deaths by 1 (5 in SFY 2006 and 4 in SFY 2005), drowning/vehicular accident death by 1 (1 in SFY 2006 and 0 in SFY 2005), medical neglect deaths by 1 (3 in SFY 2006 and 2 in SFY 2005) and a poisoning death (1 in SFY 2006 and 0 in SFY 2005).

Sadly, four of the 6 shaken baby deaths involved a male perpetrator who was the child's parent and unemployed. In addition, two of the three gun-related homicide deaths involved parents in the process of divorcing. The gun related deaths included 3 homicides and 1 accident involving an unsecured gun.

Two of the six drowning deaths in SFY 2006 involved a bathing activity. The majority (four) of the drowning deaths involved children playing in or near the water while not adequately supervised. In SFY 2005 only one of the eight drowning deaths involved a bathing activity compared to seven of the eight deaths involving playing near the water while not adequately supervised.

Vehicular deaths increased to 5 in SFY 2006 from 4 in SFY 2005. As was true





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in the prior year, all of this year's vehicular fatalities involved drug or alcohol use. Of the five vehicular fatalities, restraints were present but not used in three cases, and two cases indicated there were not proper restraints present.

The largest decrease in the child fatalities child maltreatment types was attributed to positional asphyxiation deaths decreasing by 4 (9 in SFY 2005 and 5 in SFY 2006). The second largest decreases were scalding/burns deaths of which there were none in SFY 2006 compared to 2 in SFY 2005 and drowning deaths of which there were 6 in SFY 2006 compared to 8 in SFY 2005. The drug related conditions of the child death cause decreased by 1 (2 in SFY 2005 and 1 in SFY 2006). Other decreases included no fire death in SFY 2006 compared to 1 in SFY 2005, no suicide death in SFY 2006 compared to 1 in SFY 2005, and no undetermined death in SFY 2006 compared to 1 in SFY 2005.

There were no changes in the primary causes of death for stab wounds (1 in each year), and asphyxiation/suffocation/strangulation (5 in each year).





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Fatalities due to physical abuse

Thirty (30) deaths resulted from physical abuse in SFY 2006. Physical abuse resulting in fatal blunt force trauma was the primary cause of death, accounting for 15 of the 30 abuse fatalities. The second leading cause of abuse deaths was shaken baby syndrome, accounting for 6 of the deaths. The 9 remaining abuse fatalities resulted from asphyxiation/suffocation/strangulation (4), gun-related injuries (3), stab wounds (1), and poisoning (1).

The following paragraphs provide summaries of the fatalities that resulted from physical abuse. These deaths represent more than numbers or statistics can convey. Each number is a child who had his/her life cut short due to abuse at the hands of a parent, guardian or custodian. By offering more in-depth descriptions, the intent of the Department of Child Services is to illustrate the circumstances surrounding each child's death as a means to promote child abuse prevention efforts with ardent diligence. Note: These are the facts determined by the reviews described earlier in this report. They don't necessarily reflect facts found by a court of law or other legal body of fact finder.

Deaths caused by skull fracture/blunt force trauma

- Two young brothers died of blunt force trauma to the head after their mother bludgeoned them repeatedly with a 10lb weight.
- A 10-year old girl was beaten severely by her stepfather and died because of her head injuries, yet she also suffered subsequent gunshot wounds. The stepfather shot and killed her mother and older sister as well.
- A 5-month old boy was abused by an unlicensed babysitter and died of extensive skull fractures and brain damage.
- A stepfather held a 1-year old boy in the air and dropped him into playpen sitting on a concrete floor. The baby landed on his back and died of severe blunt force trauma.
- A 6-month old girl was found dead in her crib, and an autopsy revealed that she died from head injuries and skull fractures. The mother claimed that the girl's 3-year old brother had caused his sister's death, but the injuries were found too severe to have been done by a toddler.
- A 4-month old girl died while in the care of a babysitter. According to the autopsy, the death was non-accidental and was a result of blunt force trauma and brain damage.
- A 3-month old baby died due to blunt force trauma while in the care of her mother's boyfriend who was frustrated with the baby's crying and violently grabbed the back of the baby's neck several times.
- A 4-year old girl was murdered by her stepfather while her mother was at work. The stepfather turned the girl upside down, rammed her head into the floor and caused extensive skull fractures and irreparable brain





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damage. Evidence suggests that sexual molestation may have occurred at some point prior to her death.

- A 5-year old died of extensive blunt force trauma after her stepmother claimed she had accidentally hit her head while getting dressed. Her injuries were too severe to have been accidental, and the child's stepmother admitted to throwing the child into a wall.
- A 3-month old boy died of massive internal injuries and brain damage after being abused by his father. The mother returned from work to find the child unresponsive and his entire body covered in bruises.
- While in the care of her aunt's boyfriend, a 1-year old girl sustained injuries resulting in 4 to 5 skull fractures. The neurosurgeon stated "that a car would have to been going 1000 mph" for the child to have been injured so severely.
- A 17-month old girl died of blunt force trauma due to abuse by her mother's boyfriend. In addition to her injuries, the child was documented as severely underweight. Despite awareness that the child was injured, her mother left her alone in her crib for 15 hours before calling for medical assistance.
- A 14-year old died at the hands of her mother and stepfather from blunt force trauma which was described by a doctor as a "pile driver force" to the head. The girl had been dead for several hours before EMS was called. She was also significantly underweight.
- A 3-year old girl was beaten to death by her uncle after going to the bathroom in a bedroom closet. The girl was beaten on several separate occasions and then placed in the bathtub, unsupervised, for over 30 minutes. She was found in the bathroom unresponsive.

Deaths caused by Shaken Baby Syndrome

- A father admitted to violently shaking his 6-month old boy, causing severe brain damage and other injuries. The child was blind and deaf because of the shaking, and died in foster care shortly after.
- A 6-month old died from complications of shaken baby syndrome after being shaken by her father while her mother was at work.
- A 7-month old died at the hands of a babysitter after sustaining severe brain damage consistent with shaken baby syndrome. His mother dropped him off with unlicensed babysitter and while in her care, the baby was violently shaken.
- A 6-month old girl died from injuries after being shaken by her father. The man had been caring for four children and had called the mother (working a night shift) on several occasions to report "problems" such as fussiness with the victim.
- A 4-month old boy suffered extensive abuse at the hands of both parents, and the autopsy revealed several rib and skull fractures. It was determined that he died because of complications from shaken baby syndrome. There





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was a no contact court order from another state finding that the father was not to be around the child.

- A 2-year old died while in the care of his mother's boyfriend. The boyfriend admitted that he was agitated by the baby's crying and had shaken him forcefully until the body went limp.

Deaths caused by asphyxiation/suffocation/strangulation

- Three sisters, ages 10, 4, and 1, were murdered by their father after he beat their mother to death with a lead pipe. He strangled the 4-year old with his bare hands and used an extension cord to strangle the 10-year old and 1-year old.
- A 1-year old girl was suffocated in her sleep by her mother's boyfriend.

Deaths caused by gun-related abuse

- A 12-year old girl was shot in the head by her stepfather because she fought off his attempts to rape her. After he shot her, he proceeded to have intercourse with her. The man also shot and killed the girl's mother and beat her younger sister to death.
- A 4-year old boy was shot in the head by his father, and the father then turned the gun on himself. The mother was in the process of divorcing the father and moving to the East Coast with the child.
- A 15-year old boy was shot and killed by his father because his mother was threatening divorce. The victim's younger sister witnessed the shooting and was shot by her father while she tried to run away. Despite her injuries, she survived.

Deaths caused by stab wounds

- A 4-year old and his 2-year old brother were kidnapped by their father. An Amber Alert was issued, and while being pursued by police, the man ran with the children into a lake and stabbed both boys repeatedly. The 4-year old died from a stab wound to the heart.

Deaths caused by poisoning

- A disabled 8-year old died from a lethal overdose of her allergy medication and an unexplainable amount of alcohol in her system. She had been in the care of her father and stepmother.

Overall, physical abuse fatalities compared to last year increased by 6 from 24 in SFY 2005 to 30 in SFY 2006. Specifically, Shaken baby syndrome deaths reflected the largest increase going to 6 in SFY 2006 from 3 in SFY 2005. Physical abuse blunt force trauma followed with an increase of 2 from 13 in SFY 2005 to 15 in SFY 2006. Abuse gun related deaths increased by 1 from 2 in SFY 2005 to 3 in SFY 2006. Also, there was an increase in the poisoning cause

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of death to 1 in SFY 2006 from 0 in SFY 2005. Two categories which remained unchanged included asphyxiation/suffocation/strangulation deaths (4 for both years) and a stab wound death (1 for each year). There was a decrease of one in a scalding/burns death of which there was none in SFY 2006 compared to one in SFY 2005.





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Fatalities due to neglect

There were 23 deaths resulting from neglect in SFY 2006. Drowning was the primary cause of these neglect deaths, accounting for 6 of the 23 neglect fatalities. Vehicular accidents and positional asphyxiation rank as the second leading cause of neglect deaths, each accounting for 5 of the fatalities. The 7 remaining neglect fatalities were the following: medical neglect consisting of sepsis (1), pneumonia (1), and malnutrition (1), drug-related (1), asphyxiation/suffocation/strangulation (1), a gun-related: unsecured gun (1), and drowning/vehicular accident (1).

The following paragraphs provide summaries of the fatalities that resulted from neglect. The high number of deaths resulting from drowning and auto accidents reflects the fact that neglect fatalities can often be prevented. In many instances, a child will escape supervision because a parent or guardian is forgetful or preoccupied. Unfortunately, tragedy also results from caretakers neglecting to take the time to properly buckle a child into a car seat, to ensure that safe sleeping practices are used, or to adequately monitor a child's health condition. Note: These are the facts determined by the reviewers described earlier in this report. They are the result of numerous reviews of the information available to the reviewers. These summaries do not contain all of the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of the child.

Deaths caused by drowning

- A 2-year old exited his house through a door with a broken lock and drowned in the family's above ground pool. The family was aware that the child was able to venture out of the broken door, yet the lock had not been fixed.
- A 2-year old girl exited her house through sliding doors with faulty locks and drowned in an inflatable swimming pool. The parents were aware that the child could get outside through the door, and at the time of the drowning, the father was asleep on the couch. The father had been drinking earlier in the day and was unable to be awakened by the girl's 4-year old sister. The girl's 8-year old brother attempted CPR.
- A 4-year old girl drowned in a lake - she was not wearing a floatation device. Her parents were not providing adequate supervision as they were seated at a picnic table over 100 feet from the water.
- A 5-year old boy drowned in a pond only 3 feet from the shore. He was in the care of his grandmother who did not notice the child was missing until notified by neighbors. There had been numerous accounts of the child playing for extended periods of time without sufficient adult supervision.
- A 1-year old drowned after being left unattended with a 2-year old sibling in a bathtub for twenty minutes. The mother allegedly advised her brother to





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watch the children and left the home, but the brother did not hear because he was napping.

- A 10-month old drowned after being left alone in a bathtub with his 2-year old sibling. The father left the home assuming the mother would supervise the children in the tub, but she was under the influence of illegal substances and incapacitated for an hour and a half.

Deaths caused by vehicular accidents

- Two sisters, ages 3 and 2, were killed when their father drove head on into a box truck. Neither child was in any type of car seat or safety restraint. At the time of the accident, the father was significantly impaired due to his abuse of illegal substances.
- A 6-year old girl died when she was ejected from a car traveling at a high rate of speed. She had not been restrained with a seat belt or car seat, and her mother was under the influence of drugs and alcohol when she lost control and the vehicle overturned.
- A 5-year old girl was killed when her mother lost control of the car and slammed into a utility pole after traveling at speeds up to 73mph. The girl was in a booster seat but was not buckled in, and the mother was under the influence of alcohol and cocaine.
- A 2-year old boy died from injuries sustained when his father lost control of the car and crashed into a bridge while driving under the influence of alcohol. The child was not in a car seat, and was only buckled into the front passenger seat.

Deaths caused by positional asphyxiation

- A 3-week old infant suffocated while sleeping with her mother and the mother's boyfriend on an air mattress. Both the mother and her boyfriend tested positive for drugs.
- A 5-week old infant was smothered while sleeping with his mother on a couch. The mother admitted to taking non-prescribed Valium, which she had taken prior to the incident.
- A 7-month old was suffocated while in his crib when his 3-year old sister and another young friend covered him with close to 40lbs of clothes, blankets and toys. The mother was downstairs on the computer for close to two hours without checking on any of the children.
- A 6-month old boy was found dead in his crib covered with blankets, bags of clothing, and large toys.
- A 2-month old was smothered while sleeping in close proximity with his mother. She admits being drunk and high around his time of death.





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Death caused by asphyxiation/suffocation/strangulation

- A mother left her 7-month old daughter alone in a car seat in the living room for four hours. The belt between the child's legs was not fastened, and the child slid down in the seat and was strangled by the strap.

Death caused by sepsis

- A 9-year old girl died of sepsis from an infected wound on her arm. Her father allowed her to stop taking prescribed medication because it caused her to break out in a rash. He did not seek further medical attention even though his daughter's condition was rapidly worsening into delirium and immobility.

Death caused by pneumonia

- A 4-month old girl died of pneumonia after being born three months premature. She had spent several months in Riley but was eventually released to her parents, who neglected to fill five prescription medications for the child. The autopsy found high levels of Cotinine (second-hand cigarette smoke) and Hydromorphone (an analgesic 2-8 times as strong as morphine) in the child's system.

Death caused by malnutrition/medical neglect

- An 11-month diabetic female died due to her mother's deliberate failure to monitor and sufficiently administer her medications. The baby was also severely underweight at the time of death, raising concerns about whether she had been fed adequately.

Death caused by an unsecured gun

- A 3-year old accidentally shot himself in the chest and bled to death. His father had left the gun in his home unsecured.

Death caused by drug-related conditions of the child

- A 17-year old girl had been in a shelter after being released from a treatment facility for addictions, particularly cocaine. She stole prescription Oxycodone from her mother's purse while her mother was visiting the shelter, crushed them, and snorted them with a straw. She had been known to steal her mother's prescriptions in the past.

Death caused by drowning/vehicular accident

- A 2-year old girl, not restrained by a seat belt or a car seat, was ejected from a car off a bridge and into a river below. Her aunt was intoxicated when she lost control of the vehicle and ran into the guardrail on the side of a bridge.





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Overall, neglect deaths decreased by 7 from 30 in SFY 2005 to 23 in SFY 2006. Positional asphyxiation deaths experienced the largest decrease of 4 going from 9 in SFY 2005 to 5 in SFY 2006. The other decreases in neglect deaths occurred in the drug related conditions of child (2 in SFY 2005 and 1 in SFY 2006) and drowning (8 in SFY 2005 and 6 in SFY 2006). Neglect fatalities which appeared in SFY 2005 and do not appear in SFY 2006 include the following 1 fire, 1 scalding/burns, 1 suicide and 1 undetermined.

Increases in the causes of neglect deaths included vehicular (4 in SFY 2005 and 5 in SFY 2006), gun related: unsecured (0 in SFY 2005 and 1 in SFY 2006), and medical neglect (2 in SFY 2005 and 3 in SFY 2006) and drowning/vehicular accident (0 in SFY 2005 and 1 in SFY 2006). The type of neglect cause of death that remained unchanged in both years was 1 asphyxiation/suffocation/strangulation.





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Characteristics of Perpetrators

There were 38 identified abuse perpetrators and 26 identified neglect perpetrators for SFY 2006. Note: More than one perpetrator may be identified for each fatality.

Of the total 53 fatalities in SFY 2006, drugs or alcohol were factors in 9 of the fatalities. This reflects a decrease from SFY 2005 when drugs or alcohol were involved in 18 of the total 54 fatalities.

As was true in the previous year, the majority of abuse and neglect perpetrators for SFY 2006 were White. For abuse fatalities, White perpetrators comprised 24 of the 38 total abuse perpetrators, African American and Hispanic perpetrators each comprised 7 of the 38 total abuse perpetrators. For neglect fatalities, White perpetrators comprised 19 of the total 26 neglect perpetrators, African American comprised 4, and Multi-Racial, Hispanic and Unknown each comprised 1 of the 26 total neglect perpetrators.

As was true in past years, the majority of perpetrators were natural parents. Twenty one of the 38 abuse perpetrators and 23 of the 26 neglect perpetrators were natural parents. This reflects a decrease from SFY 2005 when 26 of the 39 abuse perpetrators and 37 of the 30 neglect perpetrators were natural parents.

Twenty three of the 38 abuse perpetrators were male. As in prior years, the majority of neglect perpetrators were female, specifically 14 of the 26.

The majority of the perpetrators were under the age of thirty. As was true in previous years, the prevalent age category of the perpetrators in both abuse and neglect remained in the range of 20-24 years of age. SFY 2006 fatality data indicated that 16 of abuse perpetrators fell into this category, followed by 7 perpetrators in the 35-39 year old range. Six perpetrators were in the 30-34 year old range, five were in the 40-49 year old range, and four in the 25-29 year old range. As in abuse, the prevalent age category for the neglect perpetrators included the 20-24 years old range as well as the 25-29 years old range, accounting for 9 perpetrators in each age range. The remaining perpetrators consist of 3 in the 35-39 years old range, 1 in the 30-34 years old range, 2 in the 40-49 years old range, 1 in the 16-19 years old range, and 1 in the 50+ years old range.





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Household Characteristics

As in the prior year, the majority of abuse occurred in two-parent households for SFY 2006. Contrary to last year, the majority of neglect deaths occurred in single parent households for SFY 2005. In abuse cases, 22 of the 30 abuse households were 2 parent households, while 8 were single parent households. In neglect cases, 11 of the 23 neglect households were single parent households, while 8 were two parent and 4 were extended-family households.

Thirty six of the total 53 fatalities occurred in households where there were other siblings in the family including 20 of 30 abuse households and 16 of 23 neglect households. This reflects a decrease from the prior year where 37 of the 54 fatalities occurred in households where there were other siblings in the family.

Eleven (20.8%) of the total 53 child fatalities occurred in families with at least one prior child protective services substantiated investigation of a child in that household. This prior substantiation may have involved the child fatality victim and/or another child in the household. This reflects a decrease from SFY 2005 when 20 (37%) of the total 54 child fatalities occurred in families with a prior child protective services substantiated investigation.

Fatalities from both abuse and neglect with alcohol/drug involvement decreased to 9 (16.9%) in SFY 2006 from 18 (33.3%) in SFY 2005. This reflects a significant decrease from SFY 2005 when 18 of the 54 fatalities had alcohol/drug involvement compared to SFY 2006 when 9 of the 53 fatalities had alcohol/drug involvement.

The most common stress factors ranked in order of frequency for abuse cases were:

- (1) Family discord/marital problems;
- (2) Domestic Violence;
- (3) Lack of Parenting Skills;
- (4) Pregnancy/new child;
- (5) Unstable Living Conditions

The most common stress factors ranked in order of frequency for neglect cases were:

- (1) Lack of Parenting Skills;
- (2) Drug Dependency;
- (3) Family Discord Marital Problems;
- (4) Mental Health Problems, and overwhelming childcare obligations;
- (5) Pregnancy/new child





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Characteristics of Victims

As was true in the prior year, the majority of abuse and neglect victims for SFY 2006 were under one year of age. However, SFY 2006 reflected a decrease in victims under one year of age. Overall, child victims under one year of age comprised 25 (46.3%) of the total 54 fatalities in SFY 2005 compared to SFY 2006 when child victims under one year of age comprised 19 (35.8%) of the total 53 fatalities. Children within this age range accounted for 10 (33.3%) of the total 30 abuse deaths for SFY 2006. This reflects the same number but a decreased percentage from SFY 2005 which reported 10 (41.7%) of the 24 abuse deaths reported. Child victims under one year of age accounted for 9 (39.1%) of the total 23 neglect deaths. This reflects a decrease from SFY 2005 which reported 15 children within this age range, which accounted for 50% of the neglect deaths.

As was true in the prior year, fatalities from both abuse and neglect occurred most often with White children (abuse 56.7% and neglect 69.6%). This year Hispanic children (abuse 23.3% and neglect 8.7%) comprise the second largest category followed by African American children (abuse 13.3% and neglect 13.0%), and Multi-Racial children (abuse 6.7% and neglect 8.7%).

For abuse, White victims comprised 17 of the 30 total abuse cases, Hispanic victims comprised 7 of the 30 cases, African American victims comprised 4 of the 30 cases and Multi-Racial comprised 2 of the total 30.

For neglect, White victims comprised 16 of the total 23 neglect cases, African American victims comprised 3 of these 23 cases and the Hispanic and Multi-Racial each comprised 2 of the total 23 cases.

Contrary to previous years, more female children died to abuse as well as neglect than male children. Female children accounted for 18 (60%) of the 30 abuse fatalities and 14 (60.9%) of the 23 neglect fatalities. This is the first year since 1998 when fatalities were first reported that there more female than male abuse victims.





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DCS Vision

The Department of Child Services envisions children thriving in safe, caring, supportive families and communities. As a community and as a state, we must use the data from these tragic circumstances to recognize child abuse and neglect risk factors that ultimately can result in a child's death. Partnerships between the Department of Child Services and community members are imperative in the attempt to reduce the frequency of these fatalities and these collaborative efforts are the best means for providing proactive support for children and parents in need.

Each fatality report presents information conducive to meaningful change. DCS participates in multiple initiatives and programs to educate the community towards the prevention of deaths from abuse and/or neglect. Currently, DCS is working to enhance specialized fatality knowledge and skills among identified field staff. The goal is to have accurate and consistent assessment information for each reported child death in order to best inform prevention efforts. Department staff are also members of the Indiana Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation (SUIDI) Team, a Team trained by the Center for Disease Control in the uniform protocol for the investigation of infant death. This Team is a partnership of DCS, a forensic pathologist, a forensic pediatrician, a deputy coroner and an Indiana University faculty. Additionally, DCS has established a Citizen Review Panel within the Governors' appointed State Child Fatality Committee with an identified goal of reviewing the dangers of aboveground pools.

By promoting and encouraging community involvement, child welfare becomes everyone's concern. A wealth of information relating to children and families is available on the DCS website: <http://www.in.gov/dcs>.





CHILD FATALITIES - ALL STATISTICS

County of Occurance
For State Fiscal Year 2006

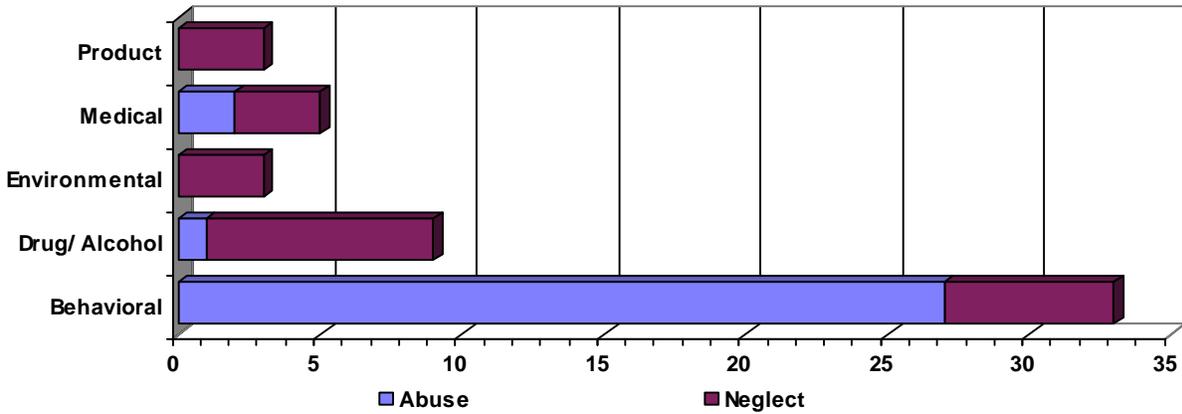
County	SFY 06		
	ABUSE	NEGLECT	TOTAL
Allen	5	1	6
Clinton	1	0	1
Hamilton	0	1	1
Howard	0	1	1
Jackson	1	0	1
Knox	0	1	1
LaGrange	0	1	1
Lake	2	3	5
Laporte	0	2	2
Madison	0	1	1
Marion	10	4	14
Monroe	1	0	1
Montgomery	1	0	1
Morgan	0	1	1
Noble	0	1	1
Orange	1	0	1
Parke	2	0	2
Perry	1	0	1
Porter	0	1	1
Pulaski	1	0	1
Randolph	0	1	1
St Joseph	1	0	1
Scott	0	1	1
Shelby	0	1	1
Tippecanoe	0	1	1
Vermillion	0	1	1
Vigo	1	0	1
Wayne	1	0	1
Whitley	1	0	1
Statewide	30	23	53



CHILD FATALITIES - ALL

Risk Factors For All Child Fatalities For State Fiscal Year 2006

Breakdown of Primary Risk Factors Involved by Abuse or Neglect



Primary Risk Factors Involved

SFY 06	
Behavioral	33
Drug/ Alcohol	9
Medical	5
Product	3
Environmental	3
Total	53

**Risk Factors Identified In Family
Prior to Death**

SFY 06	
Yes	25
No	28
Total	53

**Risk Factors Identified in Community
Prior to Death**

SFY 06	
Yes	29
No	24
Total	53

Manner of Death Classification

Classification	Count
Homicide	29
Accident	18
Could not be determined	5
Natural	1
Total	53

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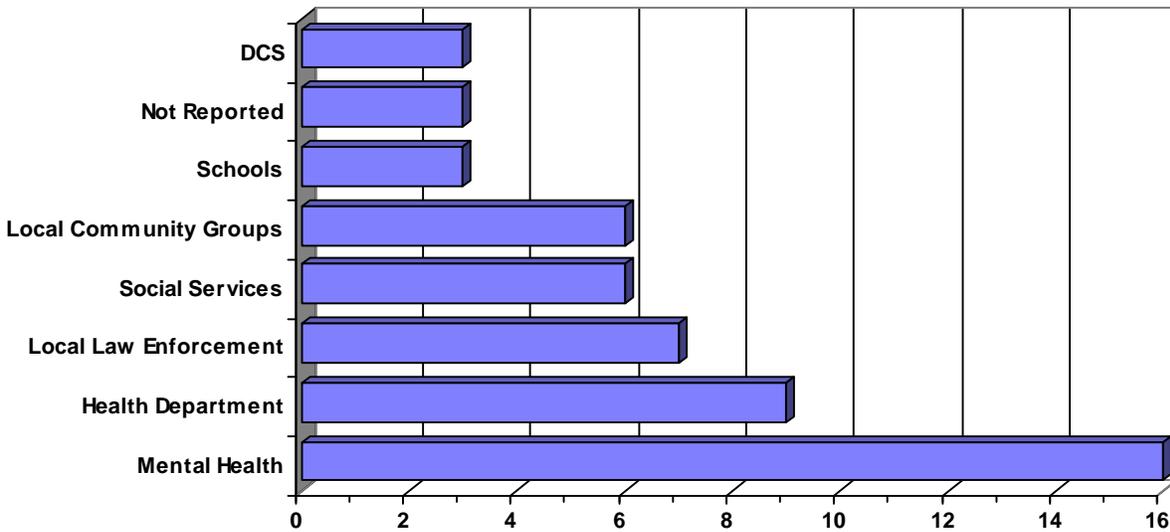
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CHILD FATALITIES - ALL

Prevention Activities For All Child Fatalities For State Fiscal Year 2006

Lead Organization for Prevention Activities



Lead Organization for Prevention Activities

SFY 06	
Not Reported	3
Health Department	9
Social Services	6
Local Law Enforcement	7
Schools	3
Mental Health	16
Local Community Groups	6
DCS	3
Total	53

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CHILD FATALITIES - ALL

Investigation Statistics

For State Fiscal Year 2006

	SFY 06		
	ABUSE	NEGLECT	TOTAL
Total Child Fatalities	30	23	53
Coroner cases	30	23	53
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Autopsies performed	30	23	53
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Scene was investigated by Coroner	22	13	35
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	73.3%	56.5%	66.0%
Scene was investigated by Law Enforcement	27	23	50
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	90.0%	100.0%	94.3%
Scene was investigated by Fire Investigator	0	0	0
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Emergency Medical Services was on scene	10	11	21
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	33.3%	47.8%	39.6%
Scene was investigated by Other	20	14	34
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	66.7%	60.9%	64.2%
Prior Substantiated CPS Investigations	8	3	11
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	26.7%	13.0%	20.8%
1 Prior	7	3	10
2 Prior	0	0	0
3 Prior	1	0	1
4 Prior	0	0	0
5 Prior	0	0	0
6 Prior or More	0	0	0
Number of Times not Available	0	0	0

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CHILD FATALITIES - ALL CHILD FATALITIES PRIMARY MALTREATMENT TYPE STATISTICS FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2006

	SFY 06		
	ABUSE	NEGLECT	TOTAL
Total Child Fatalities	30	23	53
Environment Life/Health Endangering	0	12	12
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	0.0%	52.2%	22.6%
Asphyxiation, Positional	0	5	5
Drowning/ Vehicular Accident	0	1	1
Gun Related: Unsecured Gun	0	1	1
Undetermined	0	0	0
Vehicular	0	5	5
Lack of Supervision	0	8	8
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	0.0%	34.8%	15.1%
Asphyxiation/ Suffocation/ Strangulation	0	1	1
Drowning	0	6	6
Drug-Related Conditions of Child	0	1	1
Medical Neglect	0	3	3
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	0.0%	13.0%	5.7%
Malnutrition	0	1	1
Pneumonia	0	1	1
Sepsis	0	1	1
Physical Abuse	30	0	30
% of Total Abuse, Total Neglect, or overall Total deaths	100.0%	0.0%	56.6%
Asphyxiation/ Suffocation/ Strangulation	4	0	4
Blunt Force Injury to the Head	15	0	15
Gun Related	3	0	3
Poisoning	1	0	1
Shaken Baby Syndrome	6	0	6
Stab wound	1	0	1

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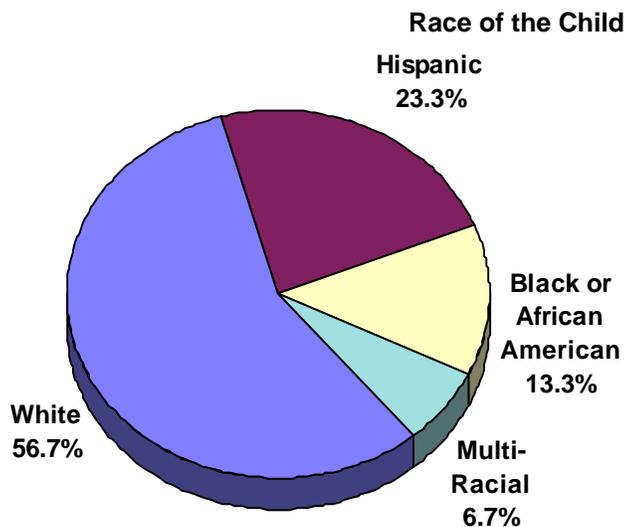
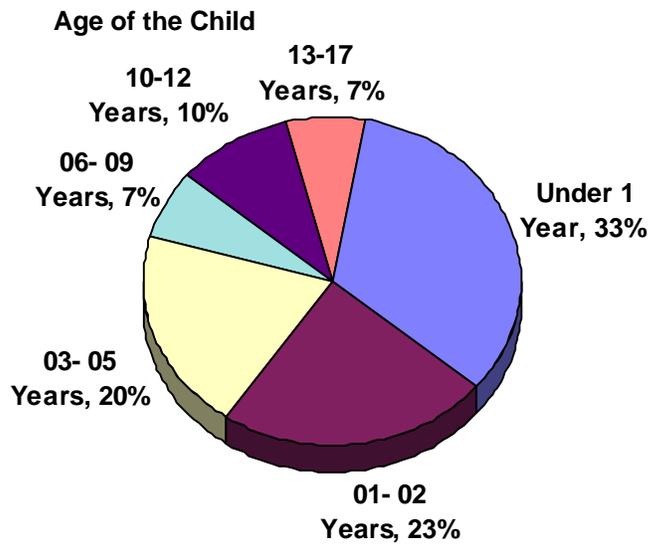
CHILD FATALITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS

Demographic Characteristics of the Child

For State Fiscal Year 2006

During SFY 06 there were 30 fatalities due to abuse out of 53 fatalities.

SFY 06		
Under 1	10	33.3%
01	5	16.7%
02	2	6.7%
03	1	3.3%
04	4	13.3%
05	1	3.3%
06	0	0.0%
07	0	0.0%
08	1	3.3%
09	1	3.3%
10-12	3	10.0%
13-17	2	6.7%
Unreported	0	0.0%
Total	30	



SFY 06		
White	17	56.7%
Hispanic	7	23.3%
Black or African American	4	13.3%
Multi-Racial	2	6.7%
Total	30	

Sex of the Child

SFY 06		
Female	18	60.0%
Male	12	40.0%
Total	30	

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CHILD FATALITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS

Demographic Characteristics of the Case For State Fiscal Year 2006

Source of Report

SFY 06	
Coroner	4
Hospital/ Clinic	12
Law Enforcement	6
Other	5
Public Social Agency	1
School Personnel	2
Total	30

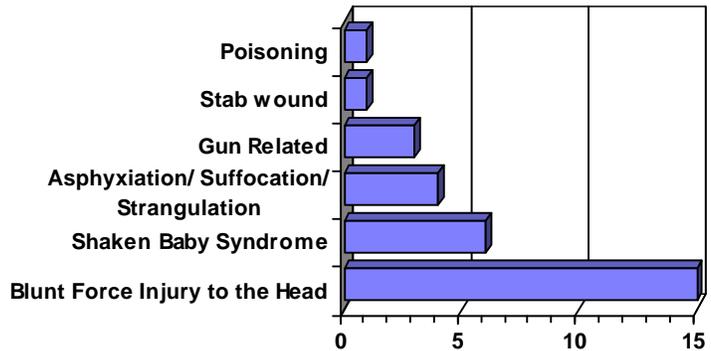
Type of Physical Abuse*

SFY 06	
Bruises, Cuts, Welts	11
Bone Fractures	0
Skull Fracture	17
Internal Injury	4
Wounds, Punctures, Bites	1
Burns, Scalds	0
Poisoning	1
Asphyxiation/ Suffocation	4
Shaking/ Dislocation/ Sprains	0
Drowning	0
Inappropriate Discipline	2
Gunshot Wounds	3
Shaken Baby Syndrome	8
Alcohol Abused Child	0
Drug Abused Child	0

**May list more than one item for each fatality*

Primary Cause of Death

SFY 06	
Primary Cause of Death	Count
Blunt Force Injury to the Head	15
Shaken Baby Syndrome	6
Asphyxiation/ Suffocation/ Strangulation	4
Gun Related	3
Stab wound	1
Poisoning	1
Total	30



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CHILD FACILITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS

Demographic Characteristics of the Household For State Fiscal Year 2006

Marital Status of Parents

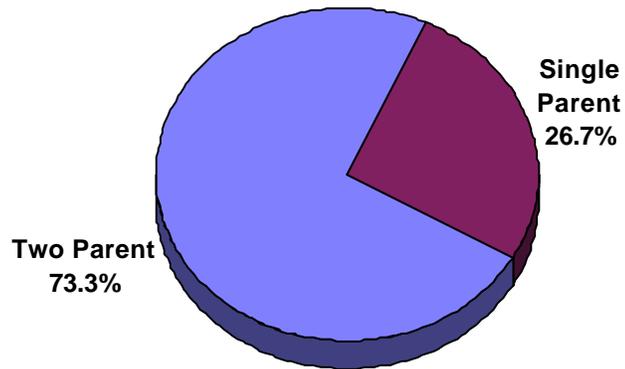
SFY 06	
Living Together	4
Married	18
Separated	3
Single	5
Total	30

Other Siblings in the Family

SFY 06	
Yes	20
No	10
Total	30

Type of Household Where Incident Occurred

SFY 06	
Single Parent	8
Two Parent	22
Total	30



Male Caregiver's Primary Source of Income

SFY 06	
Unknown	9
Unemployed	8
Labor/Skilled	5
Labor/ Unskilled	4
Military	1
Management/Administration	2
Professional/ Technical	1
Total	30

Female Caregiver's Primary Source of Income

SFY 06	
Unknown	4
Unemployed	6
Labor/Skilled	3
Labor/ Unskilled	9
Service Work	3
Clerical/Office	3
Professional/ Technical	1
Other	1
Total	30

Male Caregiver's Education

SFY 06	
Partial Elementary	1
High School Graduate	4
Unknown	23
Partial High School	2
Total	30

Female Caregiver's Education

SFY 06	
Partial Elementary	1
High School Graduate	5
College Graduate	1
Partial College	1
Technical/Vocational	1
Unknown	17
Partial High School	4
Total	30

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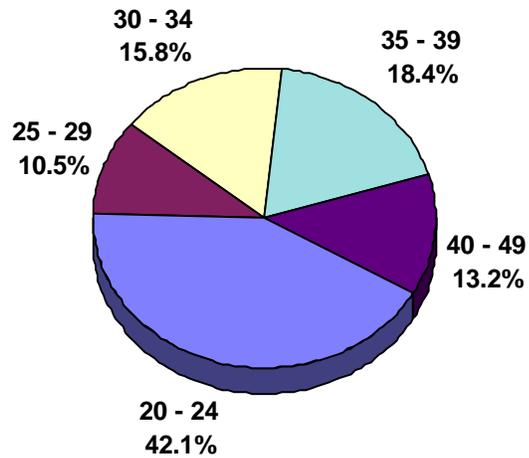


CHILD FATALITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS

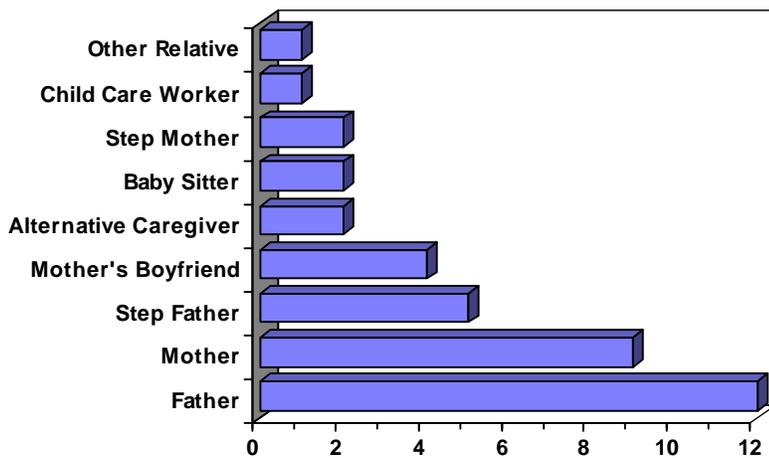
Demographic Characteristics of the Perpetrator For State Fiscal Year 2006

Age of Perpetrator*

SFY 06	
20 - 24	16
25 - 29	4
30 - 34	6
35 - 39	7
40 - 49	5
Total	38



Relationship of Perpetrator to Child*



SFY 06	
Father	12
Mother	9
Step Father	5
Mother's Boyfriend	4
Alternative Caregiver	2
Baby Sitter	2
Step Mother	2
Child Care Worker	1
Other Relative	1
Total	38

Race of Perpetrator*

SFY 06	
White	24
Black or African American	7
Hispanic	7
Total	38

Sex of Perpetrator*

SFY 06	
Female	15
Male	23
Unknown	0
Total	38

*May list more than one perpetrator for each fatality

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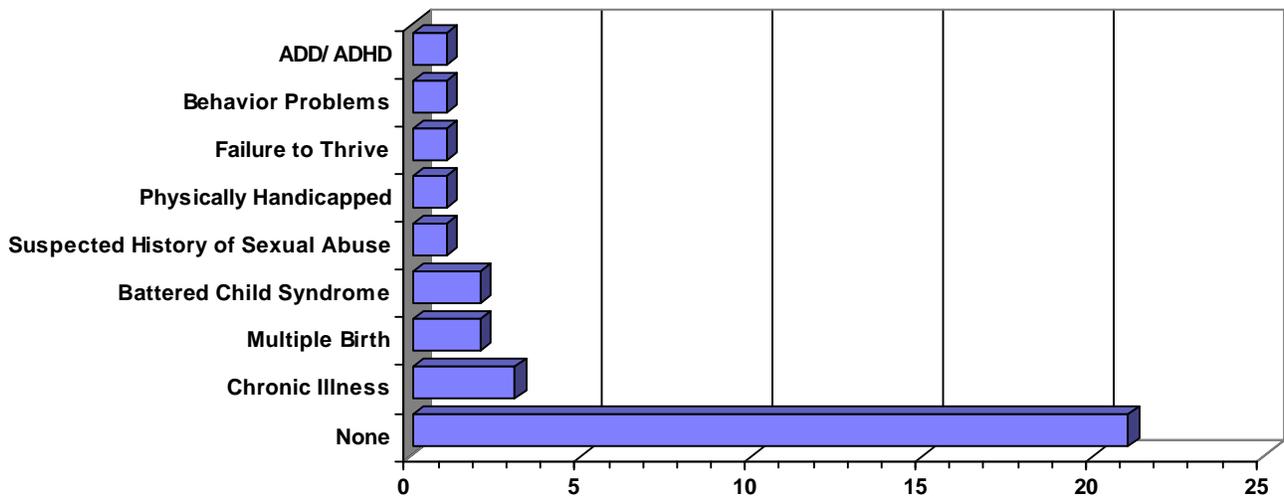
CHILD FATALITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS

Victim Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2006

Victim's Stress Factors*

SFY 06	
ADD/ ADHD	1
Battered Child Syndrome	2
Behavior Problems	1
Chronic Illness	3
Drug Addiction/ Substance Abuse	0
Emotional Disturbance	0
Failure to Thrive	1
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	0
Involved with Juvenile Court	0
Mental Retardation	0
Multiple Birth	2
None	21
Physically Handicapped	1
Premature Birth	0
School Related Problems	0
Suspected History of Neglect	0
Suspected History of Physical Abuse	0
Suspected History of Sexual Abuse	1
Total	33

Victim's Stress Factors*



**All statistics are listed by child. May list more than one item for each child.*

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CHILD FATALITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS

Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2006

Female Caregiver's Stress Factors*

SFY 06	
Abused/ Neglected as Children	1
Alcoholism	0
Authoritarian Method/Discip.	0
Caring for Special Needs Child	2
Domestic Violence	8
Drug Dependency	0
Emotionally Disturbed	1
Family Discord/ Marital Problems	14
Heavy Child Care Reasons	3
Inadequate Housing	0
Insufficient Income	5
Job Related Problems	1
Lack Parenting Skills	8
Language Problem	1
Learning Disabled	0
Mental Health Problems	2
None	5
Other addictive condition	0
Parental Mental Retardation	0
Physical Health Problems	1
Physically Disabled	0
Poor Money Management	1
Pregnancy/ New child	8
Recent Relocation	1
Social Isolation	0
Spouse Abuse/ Family Violence	0
Unknown	0
Unstable Living Conditions	5
Visual/ Hearing Problems	0
Total	67

Male Caregiver's Stress Factors*

SFY 06	
Abused/ Neglected as Children	1
Alcoholism	4
Authoritarian Method/Discip.	2
Caring for Special Needs Child	2
Domestic Violence	7
Drug Dependency	2
Emotionally Disturbed	2
Family Discord/ Marital Problems	12
Heavy Child Care Reasons	2
Inadequate Housing	0
Insufficient Income	0
Job Related Problems	3
Lack Parenting Skills	5
Language Problem	2
Learning Disabled	0
Mental Health Problems	0
None	4
Other addictive condition	0
Parental Mental Retardation	1
Physical Health Problems	0
Physically Disabled	0
Poor Money Management	0
Pregnancy/ New child	3
Recent Relocation	1
Social Isolation	0
Spouse Abuse/ Family Violence	0
Unknown	6
Unstable Living Conditions	1
Visual/ Hearing Problems	0
Total	60

****All statistics are listed by child, may count one parent twice if two children died. May list more than one item for each parent. Stress factors may be reported for a primary caretaker if the biological parent is not living in the home.***

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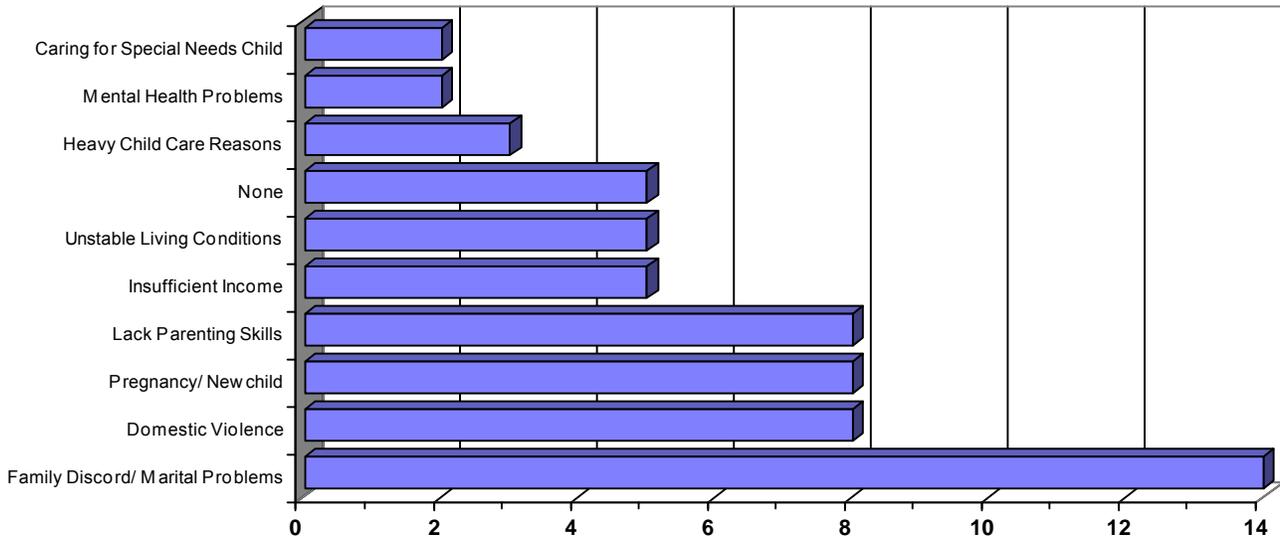
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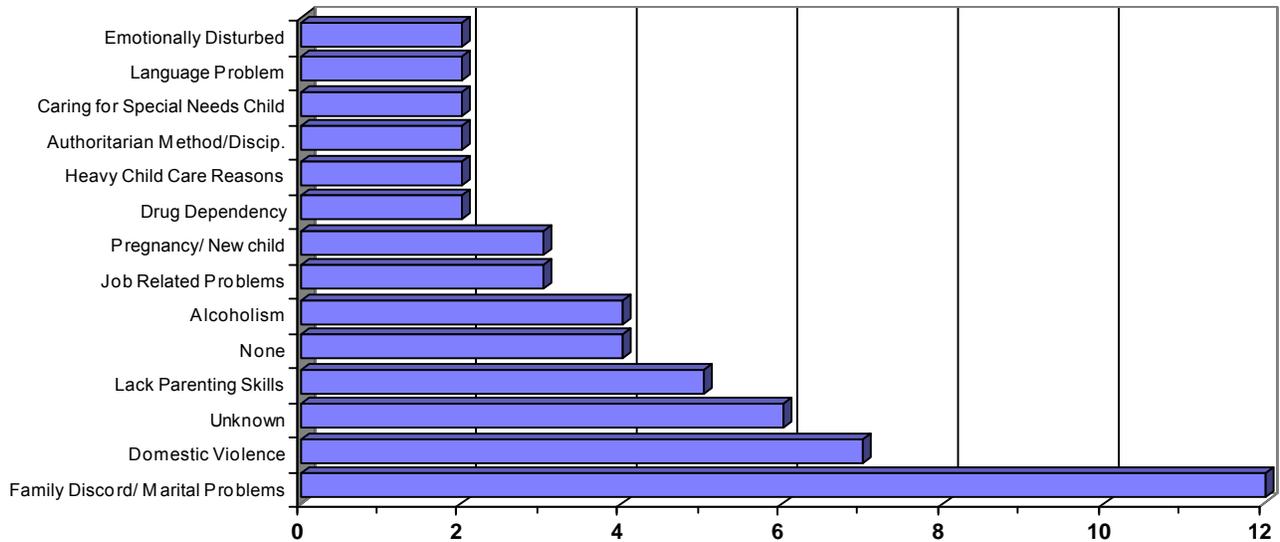
CHILD FACILITIES - ABUSE STATISTICS

Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2006

Breakdown of Top 10 Female Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors*



Breakdown of Top 10 Male Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors*



****All statistics are listed by child, may count one parent twice if two children died. May list more than one item for each parent. Stress factors may be reported for a primary caretaker if the biological parent is not living in the home.***

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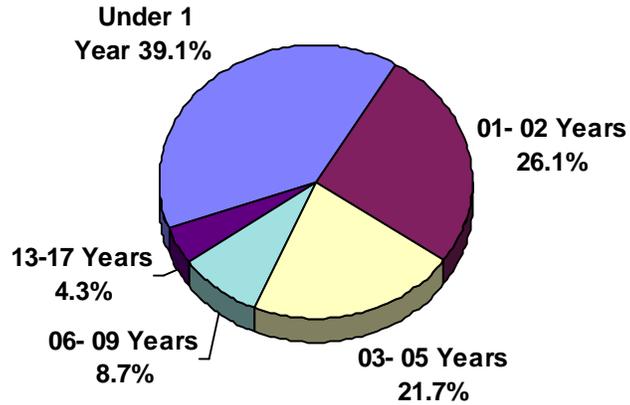
CHILD FATALITIES - NEGLECT STATISTICS

Demographic Characteristic of the Child For State Fiscal Year 2006

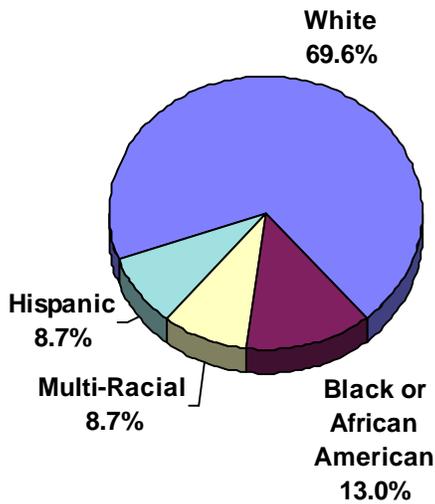
During SFY 06 there were 23 fatalities due to neglect out of 53 fatalities.

Age of the Child

SFY 06		
Under 1	9	39.1%
01	1	4.3%
02	5	21.7%
03	2	8.7%
04	1	4.3%
05	2	8.7%
06	1	4.3%
07	0	0.0%
08	0	0.0%
09	1	4.3%
10-12	0	0.0%
13-17	1	4.3%
Unreported	0	0.0%
Total	23	



Race of the Child



SFY 06		
Black or African American	3	13.0%
Hispanic	2	8.7%
Multi-Racial	2	8.7%
White	16	69.6%
Total	23	

Sex of the Child

SFY 06		
Female	14	60.9%
Male	9	39.1%
Total	23	

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CHILD FATALITIES - NEGLECT STATISTICS

Demographic Characteristic of the Case For State Fiscal Year 2006

Source of Report

SFY 06	
Source of Report	Count
Coroner	4
Friend/Neighbor	1
Hospital/ Clinic	2
Institution Staff	1
Law Enforcement	8
Other	1
Other Medical	1
Prosecutor	1
Public Social Agency	4
Total	23

Type of Neglect*

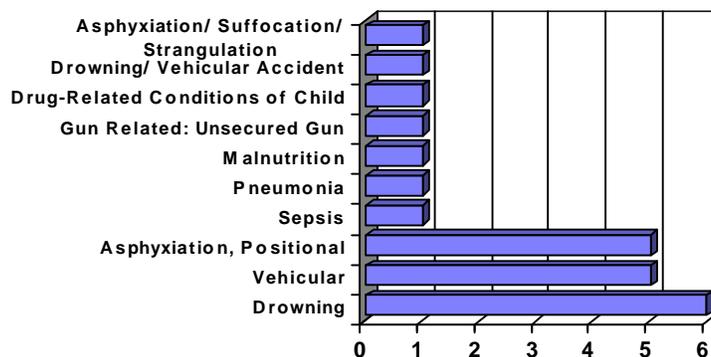
SFY 06	
Type of Neglect	Count
Lack of Supervision	10
Failure to Thrive	0
Malnutrition	1
Medical Neglect	3
Educational Neglect	0
Abandonment	0
Close Confinement	0
Lock in/ out	0
Lack Food, Shelter, Clothing	1
Environment Life/health Danger	18
Poor Hygiene	1
Drug Abuse	0
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	0

**May list more than one item for each fatality*

Primary Cause of Death

SFY 06	
Primary Cause of Death	Count
Drowning	6
Vehicular	5
Asphyxiation, Positional	5
Sepsis	1
Pneumonia	1
Malnutrition	1
Gun Related: Unsecured Gun	1
Drug-Related Conditions of Child	1
Drowning/ Vehicular Accident	1
Asphyxiation/ Suffocation/ Strangulation	1
Total	23

Breakdown by Primary Cause of Death



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CHILD FATALITIES - NEGLECT STATISTICS

Demographic Characteristic of the Household For State Fiscal Year 2006

Marital Status of Parents

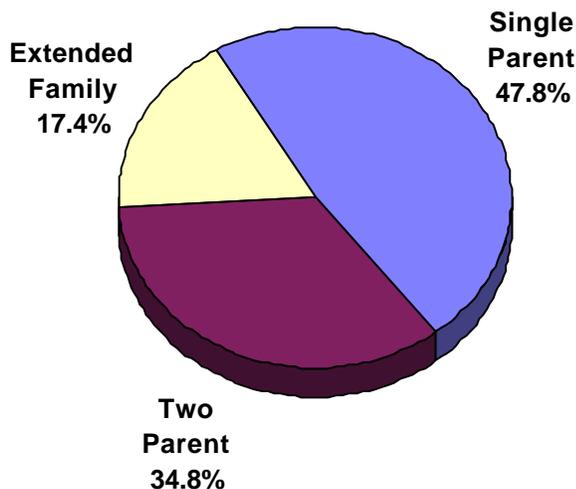
SFY 06	
Divorced	2
Living Together	3
Married	5
Single	13
Total	23

Other Siblings in the Family

SFY 06	
Yes	16
No	7
Total	23

Type of Household Where Incident Occured

SFY 06	
Extended Family	4
Single Parent	11
Two Parent	8
Total	23



Male Caregiver's Primary Source of Income

SFY 06	
Unknown	10
Unemployed	5
Labor/Skilled	3
Labor/ Unskilled	4
TANF	1
Total	23

Female Caregiver's Primary Source of Income

SFY 06	
Unknown	3
Unemployed	6
Labor/Skilled	1
Labor/ Unskilled	3
Service Work	1
Sales	1
TANF	5
Social Security/ Pension	3
Total	23

Male Caregiver's Education

SFY 06	
High School Graduate	3
Unknown	20
Total	23

Female Caregiver's Education

SFY 06	
High School Graduate	4
Unknown	14
Partial High School	5
Total	23

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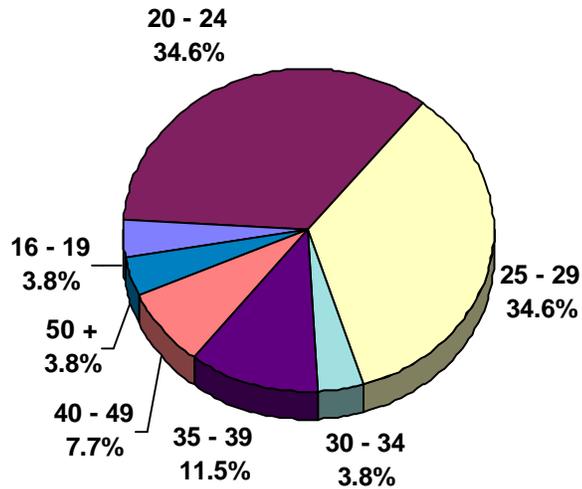


CHILD FATALITIES - NEGLECT STATISTICS

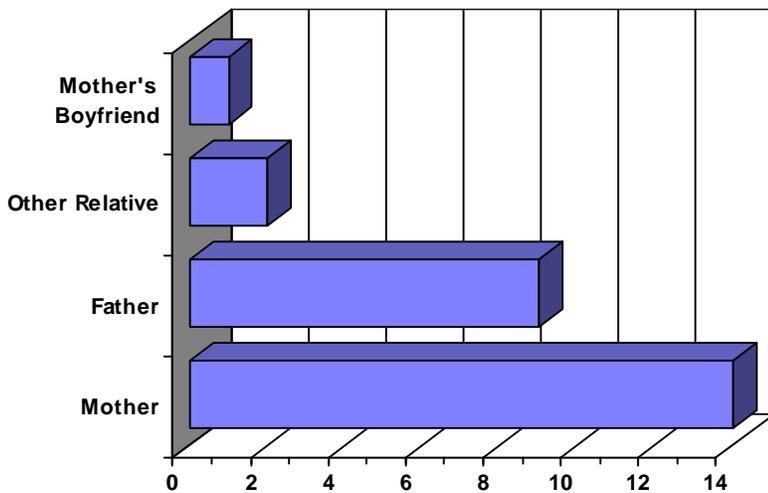
Demographic Characteristic of the Perpetrator For State Fiscal Year 2006

Age of Perpetrator*

SFY 06	
16 - 19	1
20 - 24	9
25 - 29	9
30 - 34	1
35 - 39	3
40 - 49	2
50 +	1
Total	26



Relationship of Perpetrator to Child*



SFY 06	
Mother	14
Father	9
Mother's Boyfriend	1
Other Relative	2
Total	26

Race of Perpetrator*

SFY 06	
White	19
Black or African American	4
Multi-Racial	1
Hispanic	1
Unknown	1
Total	26

Sex of Perpetrator*

SFY 06	
Female	15
Male	11
Total	26

**May list more than one perpetrator for each fatality*

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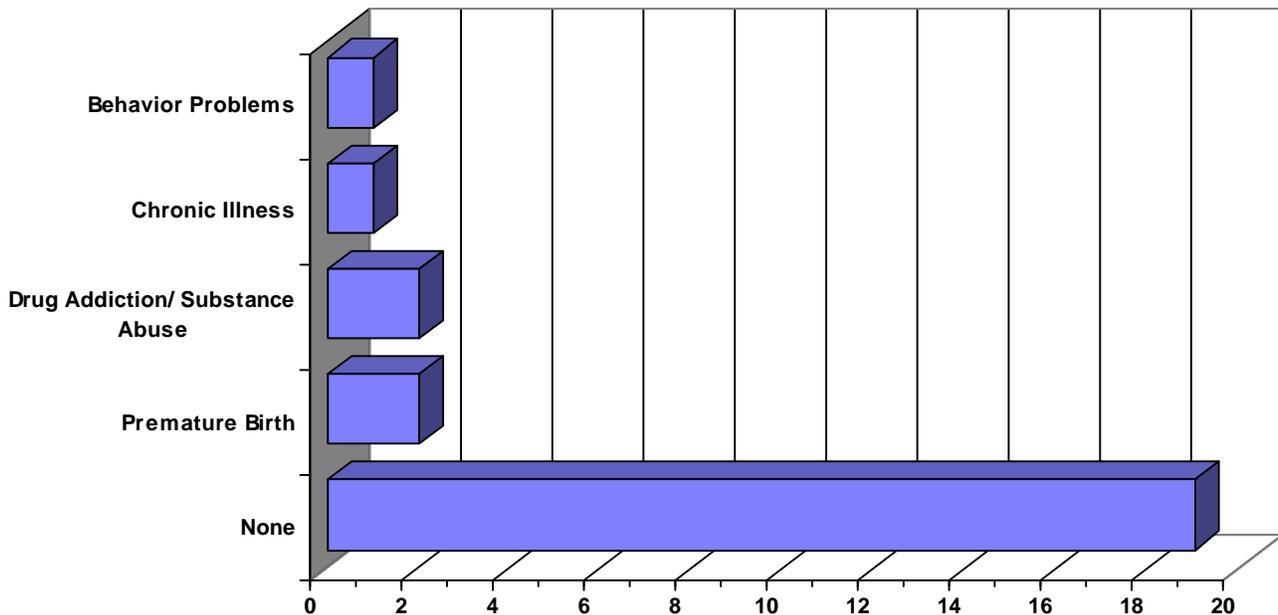
CHILD FATALITIES - NEGLECT STATISTICS

Victim Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2006

Victim's Stress Factors*

SFY 06	
ADD/ ADHD	0
Battered Child Syndrome	0
Behavior Problems	1
Chronic Illness	1
Drug Addiction/ Substance Abuse	2
Emotional Disturbance	0
Failure to Thrive	0
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	0
Involved with Juvenile Court	0
Mental Retardation	0
Multiple Birth	0
None	19
Physically Handicapped	0
Premature Birth	2
School Related Problems	0
Suspected History of Neglect	0
Suspected History of Physical Abuse	0
Suspected History of Sexual Abuse	0
Total	25

Victim's Stress Factors*



**All statistics are listed by child. May list more than one item for each individual.*

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CHILD FATALITIES - NEGLECT STATISTICS

Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2006

Male Caregiver's Stress Factors*

2006	
Abused/ Neglected as Children	0
Alcoholism	1
Authoritarian Method/Discip.	0
Caring for Special Needs Child	0
Domestic Violence	2
Drug Dependency	4
Emotionally Disturbed	0
Family Discord/ Marital Problems	4
Heavy Child Care Reasons	2
Inadequate Housing	0
Insufficient Income	1
Job Related Problems	1
Lack Parenting Skills	6
Language Problem	2
Learning Disabled	0
Mental Health Problems	0
None	3
Other addictive condition	0
Parental Mental Retardation	0
Physical Health Problems	0
Physically Disabled	0
Poor Money Management	0
Pregnancy/ New child	1
Recent Relocation	1
Social Isolation	0
Spouse Abuse/ Family Violence	0
Unknown	8
Unstable Living Conditions	0
Visual/ Hearing Problems	0
Total	36

Female Caregiver's Stress Factors*

2006	
Abused/ Neglected as Children	4
Alcoholism	3
Authoritarian Method/Discip.	0
Caring for Special Needs Child	2
Domestic Violence	1
Drug Dependency	7
Emotionally Disturbed	1
Family Discord/ Marital Problems	4
Heavy Child Care Reasons	4
Inadequate Housing	0
Insufficient Income	1
Job Related Problems	1
Lack Parenting Skills	12
Language Problem	2
Learning Disabled	0
Mental Health Problems	6
None	3
Other addictive condition	0
Parental Mental Retardation	0
Physical Health Problems	3
Physically Disabled	0
Poor Money Management	0
Pregnancy/ New child	4
Recent Relocation	0
Social Isolation	0
Spouse Abuse/ Family Violence	0
Unknown	1
Unstable Living Conditions	2
Visual/ Hearing Problems	0
Total	61

****All statistics are listed by child, may count one parent twice if two children died. May list more than one item for each parent. Stress factors may be reported for a primary caretaker if the biological parent is not living in the home.***

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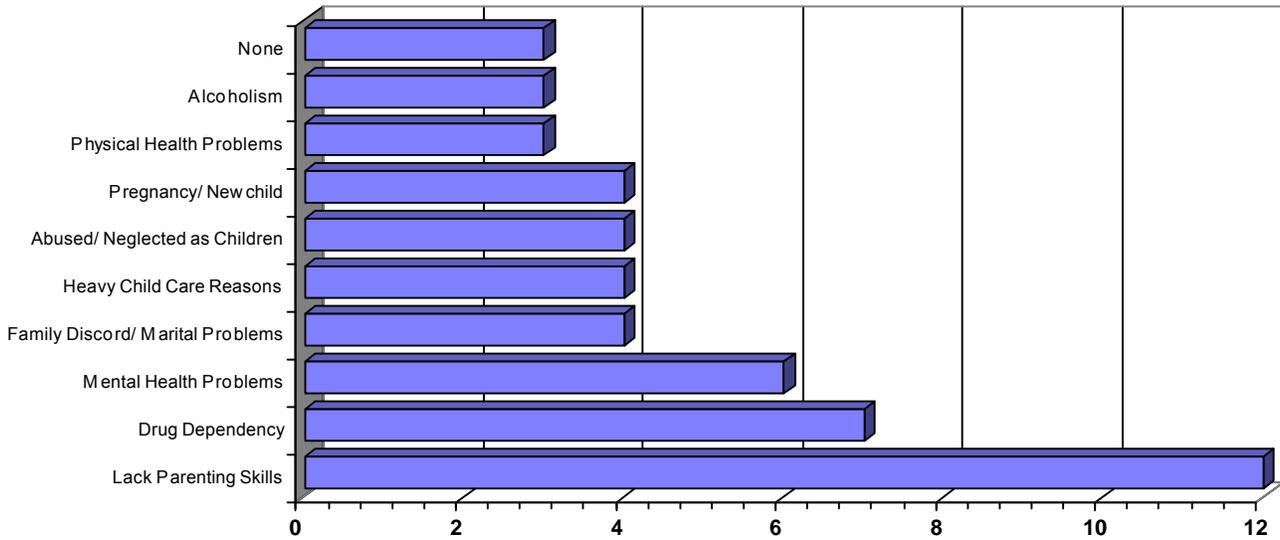
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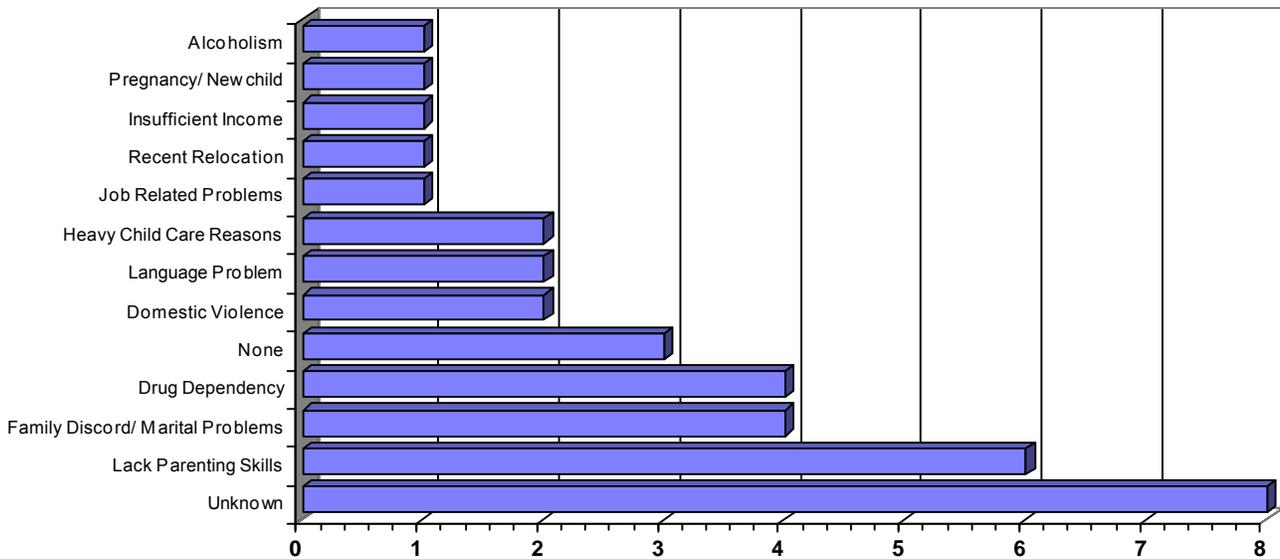
CHILD FATALITIES - NEGLECT STATISTICS

Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors For State Fiscal Year 2006

Breakdown of Top 10 Female Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors*



Breakdown of Top 10 Male Primary Caregiver's Stress Factors*



***All statistics are listed by child, may count one parent twice if two children died. May list more than one item for each parent. Stress factors may be reported for a primary caretaker if the biological parent is not living in the home.**

Prepared by:
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